

### 116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H. R. 6924

To authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on at-home testing for the detection of current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 19, 2020

Mr. Beyer (for himself and Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

## A BILL

To authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on at-home testing for the detection of current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "At-Home Testing Prize
- 5 Competitions Act of 2020".

### 1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

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source-limited situations where there may not be access to a central laboratory or where infrastructure is limited for transporting samples. At-home infectious disease tests can also lead to prompter treatment, which can prevent infections from spreading.

- 1 (8) Although other Federal agencies are cur2 rently involved in supporting and conducting re3 search into at-home testing, research spurred by
  4 prize competitions at the National Institutes of
  5 Health in consultation with the National Institute of
  6 Standards and Technology can have broader benefits
  7 for the American public.
- 8 (9) The National Institute of Standards and 9 Technology, due to its expertise in materials meas-10 urement, including for DNA and other biological 11 materials, is well positioned to support the National 12 Institutes of Health in the development of reference 13 materials and best practices for the assessment and 14 validation of COVID-19 test results.

### 15 SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIZE COMPETITION FOR RE-

#### 16 SEARCH ON COVID-19 AT-HOME TESTING.

- 17 (a) In General.—The Director of the National In-18 stitutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the 19 National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall 20 carry out prize competitions pursuant to section 24 of the 21 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
- 22 U.S.C. 3719) to incentivize research by institutions of
- 23 higher education on at-home testing for the detection of
- 24 current infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

1	(b) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for funding
2	under this section, the at-home testing subject to the pro-
3	posed research must be capable of—
4	(1) being self-administered; and
5	(2) producing results in 30 minutes or less.
6	(c) Timing.—The Director of the National Institutes
7	of Health shall—
8	(1) publicize at least one prize competition pur-
9	suant to subsection (a) within 30 days after the date
10	of enactment of this Act; and
11	(2) publicize additional prize competitions pur-
12	suant to subsection (a) as determined appropriate by
13	the Director.
14	(d) NIST Assistance.—The Director of the Na-
15	tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall provide
16	assistance to the Director of the National Institutes of
17	Health on developing validation protocols and standards
18	for testing developed pursuant to this section